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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE RURAL AREA
OF
SALISBURY AND WILTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER,
1939.

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SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.

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Medical Officer of Health—G. NAPIER, B.Sc. (Hons.),
“Glenorchy,” Shaftesbury Rd., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (R.C.P. & S.),
WILTON. C.T.M. & H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—J. THOMPSON.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—A. T. BOORE,
(Recalled to the Colours, Oct. 1939.)

Part-time Additional Sanitary Inspector—J. T. DAVID.

Offices : 35 CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY.

PHONE : SALISBURY 3371.

Abridged Report

for the year ended December, 1939,
on Public Health Matters in the
Combined Rural District of
Salisbury and Wilton.

Composition of the Area.

Salisbury and Wilton Rural District is built up of thirty-two parishes, which appoint thirty-four councillors to the District Council, which meets monthly in the Guild Hall in Salisbury, presided over by a chairman and vice-chairman.

The area in acres is 110,163.

The population is 15,890.

There are 5,042 inhabited houses, of which 3221 are working class houses.

Rateable value of the district—£67,802.

Penny rate yields approximately £292 7s. 5d.

Vital Statistics to December, 1939.

Births.

220 children were born alive in the district, of whom 102 were male and 118 female.

The birth-rate was 13·8, which compares with 14·96 last year, and with the figure of 15·0 given by the Registrar General for England and Wales. The following are the figures for last year :—

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 13·8
Live Births—Legitimate	211	96	115	
Illegitimate	9	6	3	
Stillbirths—Legitimate...	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths 13.
Illegitimate	1	0	1	

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.	} Death Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 12.
Deaths196	101	95	

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	... 1	4
Other Puerperal Causes ...	... 0	0
Total ..	... 1	4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Number of deaths ...	...	8
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	36.
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births		27.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		222
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	(last year 30)...	30
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	(„ „ 0) ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) („ „ 0)...		0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years)(„ „ 0)...		1

The general death-rate has gone down as compared with last year (12·0 against 13·1), and it compares favourably with the All England death-rate, which is given as 12.1.

Particulars of Deaths.

The chief causes of death were :—			Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease ...	...	...	28%	28%
Cancer ...	...	...	14%	15%
Senility ...	...	...	7%	3%
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	2%	3%

Details of Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer spends his whole time in Public Health work, being Medical Officer for the neighbouring Rural District of Mere and Tisbury, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England; Certificate of Tropical Hygiene, London; etc

There is a fully qualified Senior Sanitary Inspector. He is a Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, and holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sanitary Inspector), the Meat Inspector's Certificate, Certificate of the Manchester School of Technology, and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes

One Assistant Sanitary Inspector was recalled to the Colours at the beginning of October, and the other is only a part-time Assistant. This has meant that the Sanitary work of the District has had to be carried out almost entirely by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk Pupil, and every credit is due to them for the able manner in which they are keeping things going.

Other details are exactly as set out in previous reports.

Water Supplies.

Full use is being made of Pitton, Farley and White-parish schemes. At the time of writing this report work on the schemes at West Dean and Stratford-sub-Castle are well advanced.

Analyst's Reports on Water Supplies.

Number of wells sampled	...	40
Number of Good samples	...	28
Number of Bad samples	...	12
Number of Bad samples which showed a good analysis following remedial works	..	9
Number still receiving remedial work	... ..	3

Collection of House Refuse.

During the past year another parish has been added to the list for a weekly collection, and there is no doubt that but for the outbreak of hostilities others would have been added. The contractor, as a Reservist, was called to the Colours at the outbreak of war, and the man at the destructor had previously left for other work. This left us with a lorry driver to carry on this work. The labour difficulty was accentuated by the construction of military camps in the vicinity, but the services of a labourer were secured, and in spite of the abnormal winter this essential service has been kept running. Since March 1940 a salvage scheme has been started, and if we are successful in obtaining the temporary release of the contractor from his army duties, the quantity of salvage, though already good, should be greatly increased.

Meat and other Food Inspection.

The wholesale slaughterhouses at Stratford-sub-Castle have been taken over by the Government, and as requested by Memo. 1940 No. 41 of the 15th January, 1940, every assistance possible is being given by the one Inspector available, which is the Chief Sanitary Inspector himself, and in addition the Downton Bacon Factory also receives his attention. This additional work, and longer hours, has been cheerfully accepted by him as part of his war services.

Meat Killed.

Carcases	Number Killed.	Average per week.
Pigs	... 43,833	... 843
Beasts	... 214	... 4
Calves	... 1,145	... 22
Sheep	... 2,237	... 43
Goats	... 2	... —
	<hr/> 47,431 <hr/>	<hr/> 912 <hr/>

Meat Condemned.

Carcase	Number	Tuber- culosis	Fever & Dropsy	Bruising & Injury	Imma- turity
Pork Carcasses ...	329	75%	12%	10%	2½%
Beef Carcasses ...	18	80%	8%	12%	
Mutton Carcasses	16		100%		
Veal Carcasses ...	1				100%
Pig Heads and Collars ...	1,389	100%			
Pig Plucks ...	787	80%	17½%	2½%	
Sets Inwards ...	692	90%	10%		

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 18 T.T. Herds and 102 Accredited Herds in the District. Since the outbreak of the war the taking of Quarterly Samples under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders has been done, on behalf of the County Council, by this Council's Sanitary Staff.

Housing (General).

33 new Houses and 62 Bungalows have been erected by private enterprise.

Nine cottages have been reconstructed under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Eight applications for grants under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts were dealt with, and in every case received favourable consideration.

Although work under the Housing Acts was suspended at the commencement of the war, I am glad to say that Reconstruction under the Rural Workers Acts has been recommenced. However, much progress under this heading cannot be made owing to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary materials.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic ; this has been the case for the last eight years

Disease	Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	24	24	0
Diphtheria	13	12	2
Erysipelas	5	1	0
Puerperal Fever	3	2	0
Acute Pneumonia	7	0	0
Paratyphoid	1	0	0
German Measles	2	2	0
Mumps	1	1	0
Scabies	3	3	0

Tuberculosis.

Notification of Tuberculosis by Private Practitioner.

This is quite satisfactory at present ; there is no need for action and none has been taken.

Treatment is easy to obtain and is taken advantage of fully. Notified and suspected families are easy to trace and deal with.

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0 ...				
1				2
5 ...				1
10				1
15 ...		1		
20 ...				
25 ..	2	1		
35 ...				
45 ...				
55 ..	1	1		
65 & upwards				
Totals ...	3	3	0	4

There were 3 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis—2 male and 1 female, and 1 female death from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

